

## CLAIMS

1. A recording device comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive, from a user, a record instruction specifying a processing content for recording a broadcast program;

a collecting unit operable to collect second capability information relating to a recording capability of one or more external devices;

a judging unit operable to judge, with reference to prestored first capability information relating to a recording capability of the recording device, whether the recording device is capable of recording in accordance with the processing content;

a recording unit operable, if judged in the affirmative, to receive and record the broadcast program in accordance with the processing content;

a selecting unit operable, if judged in the negative, to select an external device capable of recording in accordance with the processing content, based on the collected second capability information; and

a communication unit operable to convey the record instruction to the selected external device.

2. The recording device of claim 1, wherein

the processing content includes information specifying

an image quality,

the first capability information includes information showing an image quality at which the recording device is capable of recording,

5 the second capability information includes information showing an image quality at which the one or more external devices are capable of recording,

the judging unit judges, with reference to the first capability information, whether the recording device is  
10 capable of recording at the specified image quality, and

the selecting unit selects an external device capable of recording at the specified image quality, based on the second capability information, if judged in the negative.

15 3. The recording device of claim 1, wherein

the processing content includes information specifying supplementary data for adding to the processing content,

the first capability information includes information showing supplementary data with which the recording device  
20 is capable of recording,

the second capability information includes information showing supplementary data with which the one or more external devices are capable of recording,

the judging unit judges, with reference to the first  
25 capability information, whether the recording device is

capable of recording with the addition of the specified supplementary data, and

the selecting unit selects an external device capable of recording with the addition of the specified supplementary  
5 data, based on the second capability information, if judged in the negative.

4. The recording device of claim 1, wherein

the processing content includes information specifying  
10 the broadcast program for recording,

the first capability information includes information showing a broadcast program receivable by the recording device,

the second capability information includes information  
15 showing a broadcast program receivable by the one or more external devices,

the judging unit judges, with reference to the first capability information, whether the recording device is capable of receiving the specified broadcast program, and

20 the selecting unit selects an external device capable of receiving the specified broadcast program, based on the second capability information, if judged in the negative.

5. The recording device of claim 1, wherein

25 the processing content includes information specifying

a broadcast time of the broadcast program for recording,

the first capability information includes information for use in judging whether the recording device is capable of recording at the specified broadcast time,

5 the second capability information includes information for use in judging whether the one or more external devices are capable of recording at the specified broadcast time,

the judging unit judges, with reference to the first capability information, whether the recording device is  
10 capable of recording at the specified broadcast time, and

the selecting unit selects an external device capable of recording at the specified broadcast time, based on the second capability information, if judged in the negative.

15 6. The recording device of claim 1 further comprising:

a requesting unit operable to request the external device to which the communication unit conveyed the record instruction, to send the recorded broadcast program; and

a second recording unit operable to receive the  
20 broadcast program transmitted from the external device in response to the request, and to record the received broadcast program to a recording medium.

7. The recording device of claim 1 further comprising:

25 a capability-disclosing unit operable to convey the

first capability to an external device;

a proxy-receiving unit operable to receive, from the external device, a record instruction specifying a processing content for recording a broadcast program; and

5 a proxy-recording unit operable to receive and record the broadcast program to a recording medium, in accordance with the record instruction received from the external device.

10 8. The recording device of claim 1 further comprising a recording-execution unit operable to select, with reference to the first and second capability information, a device from out of the recording device and the one or more external devices that is able to record at a capability closest to  
15 the processing content, if the judging unit judges in the negative and none of the one or more external devices are able to execute the processing content.

9. A proxy-recording device comprising:

20 a capability-disclosing unit operable to convey, to an external device, capability information relating to a recording capability of the proxy-recording device;

a proxy-receiving unit operable to receive, from the external device, a record instruction specifying a  
25 processing content for recording a broadcast program; and

a proxy-recording unit operable to receive and record the broadcast program to a recording medium, in accordance with the record instruction.

- 5 10. The proxy-recording device of claim 9, wherein  
the capability information includes information showing an image quality at which the proxy-recording device is capable of recording,  
the processing content includes information specifying  
10 an image quality, and  
the proxy-recording unit performs the recording at the specified image quality.

11. The proxy-recording device of claim 9, wherein  
15 the capability information includes information showing supplementary data with which the proxy-recording device is capable of recording,  
the processing content includes information specifying supplementary data for adding to the processing content, and  
20 the proxy-recording unit performs the recording with the addition of the specified supplementary data.

12. The proxy-recording device of claim 9, wherein  
the capability information includes information  
25 showing a broadcast program receivable by the

proxy-recording device,

the processing content includes information specifying  
the broadcast program for recording, and

the proxy-recording unit receives the specified  
5 broadcast program and performs the recording.

13. The proxy-recording device of claim 9, wherein

the processing content includes information specifying  
a broadcast time of the broadcast program for recording,

10 the capability information includes information for  
use in judging whether the proxy-recording device is capable  
of recording at the specified broadcast time, and

the proxy recording unit performs the recording at the  
specified broadcast time, if judged that the affirmative.

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14. The proxy-recording device of claim 9 further comprising  
a transmission unit operable to send the broadcast program  
recorded on the recording medium to the external device.

20 15. A recording method used in recording device, comprising  
the steps of:

receiving, from a user, a record instruction specifying  
a processing content for recording a broadcast program;

collecting second capability information relating to  
25 a recording capability of one or more external devices;

judging, with reference to prestored first capability information relating to a recording capability of the recording device, whether the recording device is capable of recording in accordance with the processing content;

5       receiving and recording, if judged in the affirmative, the broadcast program in accordance with the processing content;

selecting, if judged in the negative, an external device capable of recording in accordance with the processing  
10       content, based on the collected second capability information; and

conveying the record instruction to the selected external device.

15   16. A recording method used in a proxy-recording device, comprising the steps of:

conveying, to an external device, capability information relating to a recording capability of the proxy-recording device;

20       receiving, from the external device, a record instruction specifying a processing content for recording a broadcast program; and

receiving and recording the broadcast program to a recording medium, in accordance with the record instruction.



17. A computer program for causing a device having a CPU to receive and record broadcast programs, comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a user, a record instruction specifying  
5 a processing content for recording a broadcast program;

collecting second capability information relating to  
a recording capability of one or more external devices;

judging, with reference to prestored first capability  
information relating to a recording capability of the device,  
10 whether the device is capable of recording in accordance with  
the processing content;

receiving and recording, if judged in the affirmative,  
the broadcast program in accordance with the processing  
content;

15 selecting, if judged in the negative, an external  
device capable of recording in accordance with the processing  
content, based on the collected second capability  
information; and

conveying the record instruction to the selected  
20 external device.

18. A computer program for causing a device having a CPU to receive and record broadcast programs, comprising the steps of:

25 conveying, to an external device, capability

information relating to a recording capability of the device;

receiving, from the external device, a record instruction specifying a processing content for recording a broadcast program; and

5 receiving and recording the broadcast program to a recording medium, in accordance with the record instruction.

19. An integrated circuit included in a recording device, comprising:

10 a receiving unit operable to receive, from a user, a record instruction specifying a processing content for recording a broadcast program;

a collecting unit operable to collect second capability information relating to a recording capability of one or more  
15 external devices;

a judging unit operable to judge, with reference to prestored first capability information relating to a recording capability of the recording device, whether the recording device is capable of recording in accordance with  
20 the processing content;

a recording unit operable, if judged in the affirmative, to receive and record the broadcast program in accordance with the processing content;

a selecting unit operable, if judged in the negative,  
25 to select an external device capable of recording in

accordance with the processing content, based on the collected second capability information; and

a communication unit operable to convey the record instruction to the selected external device.